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healing of the multitude of sick at the door of Simon's house on a Sabbath evening, where individual treatment is impossible. An introductory chapter opens the book with a defense of the Gospel miracles and a refutation of the old arguments against their credibility. The apologetic work thus despatched, the individual miracles are taken up, beginning with the first, the water turned to wine at Cana, and closing with the draught of fishes after the Resurrection. The method pursued in a chapter is generally somewhat thus: the immediate setting of the miracle is first taken up; its probable place, its relation to what precedes, its occasion. Then follows a brief, vivid presentation of the miracle itself; a picture of the simple fact, clear and forceful. After this, and generally at more length, is given the meaning of the miracle, its significance to those who saw it and to us, and the teachings which it would convey. At this point comes the more practical part of the discourse, for the lessons are very direct and pointed, reducing to terms of personal living, facts, which, however well known as facts, may have been before unsuggestive of one's own needs or duties. The book throughout is characterized by a simplicity that invites and refreshes the reader. Yet there are not lacking passages of great beauty, for which these most touching scenes in Christ's life afford so endless an opportunity. The critical element in the book is quite lacking, for as is well known, these chapters were first delivered as a series of sermons before the congregation from whose pulpit the author so ably ministers. On the whole, the book is a most useful one, and will without doubt find a large place in the work of many Bible students.

#### Syllabus of Old Testament History.

*A Syllabus of Old Testament History: Outlines and Literature, with an Introductory Treatment of Biblical Geography.* By Ira M. Price, Ph. D., *Leipzig*, Professor of Hebrew and the Cognate Languages in the Theological Seminary, Morgan Park, Chicago. Chicago: Fleming H. Revell. Pp. i.-viii., 1-193. 8vo. Price \$1.50.

It is certainly true, as indicated by Professor Price in his preface, that "the old text-book method of studying Old Testament History must be superseded by one more stimulating and comprehensive." He might have said, *has been* superseded; for where Old Testament history has really been *studied*, the text-books now extant have long since been discarded.

The book, under consideration, professes to be only a syllabus, or outlines, intended "to lead the student along (?) the facts;" for that which most students lack is, not the ability to moralize and allegorize, but a knowledge of facts. Such a knowledge will be the best antidote in the world to the hapless, shall we say godless, sort of rubbish put out so frequently under the name of Bible-teaching.

Questions of criticism and chronology are purposely omitted, we are told, "because at this stage of the study they would only be a source of confusion." This cannot be disputed if the book is intended only for training school and academies; but if, as the preface declares, it is also prepared for colleges and seminaries, one must doubt right sharply whether the ground taken is the correct one. If such questions are not taken up in college and seminary, where, pray, shall they be studied? The mistake of the author, if it is a mistake, lies in supposing that any text-book can be equally well adapted to the wants and the needs of four so different fields of work, as the training-school, where the least possible amount of real Bible knowledge is called for; the

academy, where good work on a very general scale may and ought to be done ; the college, where genuine investigation ought to be cultivated ; and the seminary, where such work as that which is called for in this syllabus ought never to be needed—alas ! that it should be so greatly needed.

After a general treatment of Biblical Geography, Literature (from p. 21, § 9, one gains the impression, which the author of course never intended, that there is a vital relation between the facts that the Bible has 66 books, Isaiah, 66 chapters ; the O. T. has 39 books, the N. T. 27 ; the first section of Isaiah, 39 chapters ; the second section, 27), chronological divisions, of which twelve are given, the syllabus proper begins.

Each section takes up a specific amount of Biblical material, e. g., § 14, the the Creation—Gen. 1-2 : 3 ; § 19, the Deluge, 7-8 : 14 (should this not be 6-8 : 14), and includes (1) a statement of the more important topics with suggestions of treatment, and (2) references to the more accessible literature relating to these topics.

At the close of the book there is given a list of works which may be consulted in a more comprehensive study. The book is interleaved to permit the student to write down new facts and references which he may meet in his study.

The publication of this help is very timely. No conservative scholar dares to-day to write an Old Testament History. The church and the schools are not yet ready for it. Such non-committal presentations as this (non-committal even as to chronology) are all that it is wise to furnish the rank and file. Our ministers and teachers must be led to an appreciation of the *facts*. This manual is admirably adapted to do a genuine service to the cause.

#### The Pulpit Commentary : Galatians and Ephesians.

*The Pulpit Commentary, Galatians.* Exposition by the Rev. Prebendary E. Huxtable, Homiletics by Rev. Prof. T. Croskery and others. *Ephesians.* Exposition and Homiletics by Rev. Professor W. G. Blaikie, D. D. New York : A. D. F. Randolph and Co. Pp. *l.*, 345 ; *ix.*, 298. 1 vol. Price \$2.00.

One of the best introductions to any of the pulpit commentaries is furnished by Prebendary Huxtable to his notes on Galatians. In fifty pages he considers in much detail the questions connected with Galatia and the religion of the Galatians, the Jews in Galatia, the churches of Galatia, what led to the writing of the Epistle, its effect, date, object and contents. Two ample dissertations discuss the import of the term "apostle" in the New Testament and the circumstances which at this time led Paul distinctly and publicly to announce to the Church his properly apostolic commission. The notes are equally full and satisfactory. The scholarship displayed in them is of a very high order, and while they present no novelties of view, their independence of judgment, shown in ample presentation of the grounds for conclusions, is manifest.

The treatment of Ephesians by Dr. Blaikie is not so good from the point of view of historical study. There is opportunity for a fine historical exposition of this Epistle, but in this volume almost no attempt is made in this direction. The notes are clear, sensible and devout, without any special show of strength in scholarship or originality of conception. The homiletic work which Dr. Blaikie has done is the best part of his contribution to the Epistle. But he has not materially added to his reputation by anything which this volume contains.